

The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

Breaking up Broody Hens.

There is but one way to break up broody hens, successfully—especially that persistent class, the Asiatics, as they make up their minds that it is time for them to try the hatching process, for a change, when the end of their second litter of eggs come about.

Novices in fowl raising resort to all sorts of methods to effect this, and most of the plans adopted by amateurs are either futile, cruel, or meaningless.—Ducking hens in cold water, tying them by the legs to a stake in the open air or sun, shutting them in a darkened, almost air-tight barrel, twitching them rudely off their nests and throwing them to the ground a dozen times in a day—all this nonsense is of no avail whatever.

The better way, as a general rule, is to permit the broody hen to sit a few days, say for a week or two, on glass or wooden eggs, and then remove her from the nest altogether. Keep her away from her former laying-place a few days, and she will give it up. She needs a little rest. Let her have it. She will shortly go to laying again, and forget the broody fever.

But if we determine not to allow her to sit at all, then it is necessary that she be watched carefully; and the very first night she is found lingering upon the old laying-nest, take her away from it entirely, before the sitting fever has time fairly to take hold of her.

Place her in a small coop by herself, upon the ground, and keep her confined for three or four days. If you have two or three birds thus disposed, put them altogether in the closed coop, and introduce a vigorous young cock to the little company. In less than a week, if they are fed lightly they will get over the sitting inclination, and give you no further trouble.—The Poultry World.

Flower Beds.

To cultivate flowering plants to the best advantage requires as much care in the selection and preparation of the soil as any other crop. No one would expect to grow a crop of cabbages in soil overrun by the roots of trees, and shaded continually by their dense foliage, yet how often do we observe flowers placed just in such circumstances producing a few meagre flowers, and dying just as soon as there comes a hot sunny day. Most flowering plants bloom on the point of branches, and therefore to procure a continuance and vigorous growth, select an open exposure where the sun will have free access to the plant, dig the ground very deep, and dress heavily with thoroughly decomposed manure, so that the roots may have supporting resort when the surface moisture fails. A small circular or oval bed ten or twelve feet in diameter, rightly prepared and planted with flowers from pots, will produce a continued mass of flowers even in the driest summers. In arranging the plants there is much room for taste, and even striking combinations may be secured.—Practical Farmer.

Seed Wheat.

Farmers, in running your wheat through the fanning mill after thrashing do not be satisfied with merely making clean seed; aim at producing a grade of wheat that will weigh; run it through the mill until every shrunken and small seed and weed is screened and blown out, even if you have to run it through three times, yes even five times; aim at obtaining good plump heavy grain and when you harvest your crop another year you will see the benefit of giving time and care to the selection of seed wheat. This is the way to improve crops; do not look only to good cultivation and manuring; select good seed as well. If farmers would take more pains with their seed as well as to the fertilizing and the cultivation of their crops, they would have a greatly increased product per acre and consequently with less cost and more profit.

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